

Officer Candidate School (OCS)

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Summary

OCS is an intense leadership training ground. It is physically and mentally challenging, and not everyone is cut out for it. But those who are accepted, and make it through, agree it's one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives. Whether you are a first-time Soldier or have prior military experience, OCS will transform you into an effective leader. Some form of Officer Candidate School, whether it be through a State Program, a Federal Program, ROTC or one of the Service Academies, must be completed prior to receiving a commission as a 2LT.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Do I have to go to Basic Training before OCS?

A. Yes. One of the requirements to enroll in OCS is the completion of Army Basic Combat Training (BCT) or equivalent military basic skills course (NGR 600-100).

Q. How do I prepare for OCS?

A. Get in shape! Start a physical fitness program to prepare yourself for the rigors of OCS training. Run, jog, do sit-ups and push-ups. One of the primary reasons for OCS disenrollment is poor physical conditioning of candidates. Disenrollment can also be for academic reasons.

Q. Are ARNG Officers eligible for a bonus?

A. If you are commissioning into the ARNG, there is NO bonus. You do have the option of a Student Loan Repayment Program to pay off your college loans (with stipulations). Contact your Officer Strength Manager for additional details.

Q. Does OCS extend my current enlistment?

A. An enlisted Soldier who lacks enough service time to complete OCS training must extend his or her enlistment before OCS enrollment (AR 601–280, Chapter 3.)

Q. Does my grade and rank change after being accepted to OCS?

A. Officer Candidates are advanced to the rank and grade of SSG/E6 while enrolled in OCS. AGR Soldiers attending OCS are advanced to the grade commensurate with their MTOE/TDA assigned duty position not to exceed the rank of SSG.

Q. What are the requirements to become an officer?

A. The following requirements must be met in order for an applicant to be accepted into OCS and commission as an ARNG officer.

- Age - Minimum age of 18 years, maximum age of 41 years and 364 days prior to commission.
- Birth Certificate - Used to verify age at time of commissioning.
 - Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 41 years 364 days the date of commissioning.
 - Verify that the applicant was born in the United States.
 - Verify that the applicant's name is the same on other documents in the packet.
 - To obtain replacement birth certificates, visit the [Vital Chek Website](#)
- Proof of Citizenship (If Applicable) – Required for all applicants who are not a United States citizen by birth.
- College Transcript – An ORIGINAL official transcript from an accredited college documenting a minimum 60 college semester hours (CSH)/90 college quarter hours (CQH) or more required for enrollment in the traditional program OR 90 CSH/135 CQH or more required for enrollment in the accelerated program. Semester/quarter hours should be from one school, on one transcript.
- ASVAB Results – Applicant must have a minimum GT score of 110 or higher. Failure to meet the minimum requirement on the re-test will cause a minimum 6 month delay in submitting an application for enrollment. Until a GT score of 110 or higher is documented, it is unnecessary to complete any further items; until completion applicants will not be accepted into the program.
- Security Clearance Verification Memorandum – Documentation of current clearance level or applicant ability to be cleared. If an applicant cannot obtain an interim secret clearance (at a minimum), they are non-commissionable and will not be accepted in the OCS programs. Financial difficulties, certain convictions and various other items can prevent a Soldier from obtaining a secret clearance. It is critical that NOTHING be omitted from the SF 86 as Soldiers who have done so and were caught, were denied clearances when the original fact would not have prevented this. Non-disclosure is not an option, they will find out.
- Moral / Civil Conviction Waivers (As Required by NGR 600-100) – Waivers must be completed for all moral/civil convictions. An applicant, who currently possesses a secret clearance, must still disclose all convictions that meet the criteria below and request a waiver for them.
- Chapter 2 Commissioning Physical (Including Drug & Alcohol Test (DAT) and HIV test results) (DD Form 2808, DD Form 2807-1, & SF 507 (cont of DD Form 2808 documenting Eye & Ear Exam printouts)) – Once the applicant has met all previous items, he or she should be scheduled for their Chapter 2 Physical. This physical is completed at MEPS and will involve planning to ensure an appointment is made and the applicant brings all necessary medical

documents with him/her. It is critical that the finalization of this document is not delayed.

- Medical Waivers (If applicable)

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Links

- [National Guard Website – Officer Candidate School](#)
Provides an overview and description of OCS.
- [Your Guide to National Guard Officer Candidate Schools](#)

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References

Regulations

- [AR 135-100, Appointment of Commissioned and Warrant Officer of Army](#)
- [AR 135-91 Service Obligations, Methods of Fulfillment, Participation Requirements, and Enforcement Procedures](#)
- [AR 350-51, US Army Officer Candidate School](#)
- [AR 601–280, The Army Retention Program](#)
- [DA PAM 611-21, Military Occupational and Classification Structure](#)
- [NGR 600-100, Officers Federal Recognition and Related Personnel Actions](#)

Documents and Forms

- [DD Form 1966, Record of Military Processing - Armed Forces of the United States](#)
- [DA Form 2-1, Personnel Qualification Record](#)
- [DA Form 330, Language Proficiency Questionnaire](#)
- [DA Form 61, Application for Appointment](#)
- [DA Form 6285, Structured Interview, Army Pre-commissioning Selection](#)
- [DD Form 2807-1, Report of Medical History](#)
- [DD Form 2808, Report of Medical Examination](#)
- [NGB Form 62-E, Application for Federal Recognition as an Army National Guard Officer or Warrant Officer and Appointment as a Reserve Commissioned Officer or Warrant Officer of the Army in the Army National Guard of the United States](#)
- [SF Form 86, Questionnaire for National Security Positions](#)

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Points of Contact

- State Officer Strength Manager

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